(b) The average all-India ex-factory price of levy sugar based on the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the 1996-97 season and conversion cost as recommended by BICP, works out to Rs. 1000.77 per quintal. Estimated export price, FOB Bombay will depend upon the prevailing world market condition at the time of making the sales.

Steep fall in Rubber Prices

*32. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the price of rubber has crashed down from Rs. 61/- per kg. to Rs. 44/- per kg.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the steep fall in price and the steps Government intend to take to raise the price of rubber to remunerative level;

(c) whether Government would direct STC to enter in the field and purchase at least 10,000 tonnes of rubber and stock it for three months; and

(d) the special incentives given by Government to traders who are willing to export rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The price of natural rubber in the domestic market has been declining steadily since June 1995, when an all time high monthly average of Rs. 6171 per quintal was reached for RSS-IV grade rubber.

(b) Since the prices have not come down to unremunerative level, Government intervention is not required.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No exportable surplus of Natural Rubber is available in the country. Special incentives for export is therefore, not proposed. Moreover, the international price of natural Rubber continues to be lower than the domestic price.

Recommendations of Chari Committee

*33. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minsiter of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the recommendations of the Chair Committee appointed on integrated coal policy;

(b) if so, details of the recommendations accepted by Government for implementation;

(c) the decision taken by Government in regard to evaluation of relative costs for thermal power generation with different fuels at different representative locations including at pitheads and load centres;

(d) whether it has been decided to inspect the coal delivery at the power and in order to eliminate pilferage and the dispute arising between the coal company and the S.E.Bs.; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy, the Government have taken the following decisions:—

(i) Deregulation of the prices and distribution of D Grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke with immediate effect.

(ii) Allowing Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal till 1st January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.